

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Epping Rural District

For the Year 1920.

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EPPING RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population.

Census (1911)	...	...	13,988.
Estimated (1920)	...	...	15,647.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The subsoil of the District is Clay, above which in many places are more or less extensive layers of gravel and boulder clay. The surface throughout is a fertile loam or marl. The District for the most part is undulating and moderately wooded, and available for most agricultural purposes. Dairy farming is largely carried on, the milk being chiefly disposed of in London. The area of the whole, including the small portion covered by water is 36,705 acres. The occupation of the inhabitants is largely agricultural. Offensive trades or other occupations prejudicial to health are almost negligible. Engineering works at Burnt Hill is the only Factory of importance.

Rainfall for the year was as follows :—

			1919.	1920.
January	...	...	3'64.	2'41.
February	...	...	3'20.	0'43.
March	...	...	2'84.	1'42.
April	...	...	3'10.	3'34.
May	...	...	0'47.	0'76.
June	...	...	1'43.	1'47.
July	...	...	2'83.	5'15.
August	...	...	2'64.	1'61.
September	...	...	1'04.	2'58.
October	...	...	0'47.	1'25.
November	...	...	1'69.	0'91.
December	...	...	3'43.	2'33.
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			26'78.	23'66.
			<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year the number of children born was 327. This equals a Birth Rate of 20'89 per thousand of the total population. Of this number (327), 168 were male children and 159 female. There were 12 illegitimate births included in the figure 327.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year old was 5. This equals an infantile mortality rate of 15.29. There was 1 death amongst the 12 illegitimate children.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 146, which equals a death rate of 9.33 per thousand.

The following is a table of the causes of death :—

	Males.	Females.
Influenza	I	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	I	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	12
Rheumatic Fever	I	I
Meningitis	I	...
Organic Heart Disease	5	II
Bronchitis	4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	I	I
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	I
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	I
Nephritis and Brights Disease ... ..	...	I
Congenital Debility, etc.	3	...
Violence, apart from Suicide	2	...
Other Defined Diseases	33	36
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	66	80

The following Table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	5
1 and under 2	...	...	...	...	2
2 „ „ 5	...	...	...	...	—
5 „ „ 15	...	...	...	...	7
15 „ „ 25	...	...	...	...	6
25 „ „ 45	...	...	...	...	13
45 „ „ 65	...	...	...	...	43
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	70
					146

For the purposes of comparison the following table is of interest:—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales	25·4	12·4	80
96 Great Towns, including London ...	26·2	12·5	85
148 Smaller Towns... ..	24·9	11·3	80
London	26·5	12·4	75
Epping Rural District	20·89	9·33	15·29

The corresponding figures for the Epping Rural District in 1918 and 1919 were:—

1918	...	...	...	...	14·01	16·12	73·6
1919	...	...	...	...	13·20	11·7	72·46

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—The water supply is sufficient and of good quality except in the Epping Green portion of Epping Upland Parish and the Matching Green portion of Matching Parish. It is generally derived from Companies' Water (Herts and Essex Waterworks Company and Metropolitan Water Board). This supply is constant. The water from the Public Wells in Epping Upland has been analysed on various occasions, and reported on unfavourably.

During the year 19 samples of water from various wells in the District have been examined.

Rivers and Streams.—Pollution has been reported in the case of the Quickbury Brook, Sheering. This will be remedied by the completion of a scheme for Sewage Disposal now in hand.

Drainage and Sewerage.—With the exception of three small areas (Sheering: Woodside, North Weald: Grange Hill, Chigwell), there are sewerage works in all parts of the District where they are required. Generally speaking the arrangements for drainage and sewage disposal are adequate. With regard to Sheering see preceding paragraph.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of Privies with open or covered middens	...	537.
„ Pail or Tub Closets	... ..	1085.
„ Water Closets with flushing cisterns	...	1964.
„ Privies re-constructed during the year	...	19.
„ Closets constructed during the year for new houses	... ..	67.

Scavenging.—In two areas (Harlow and Chigwell), the removal of house refuse is done satisfactorily by contract. The Council does not undertake the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashbins, etc. There are few, if any, fixed receptacles.

There is a deficiency at Theydon Bois where the removal of house refuse is not undertaken by the Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of Inspections made	... ..	2141.
„ Informal Notices served	... ..	179.
„ „ „ complied with	... ..	175.
„ Statutory Notices served	... ..	4.
„ „ „ complied with	... ..	4.
Floors relaid or repaired	... ..	68.
Roofs repaired	... ..	92.
Walls repaired	... ..	49.
Gutters repaired or provided	... ..	40.
Houses cleansed	... ..	36.
New Drains laid or repaired	... ..	20.
Drains unstopped	... ..	21.
Closets repaired or cleansed	... ..	22.
Privies abolished	... ..	9.
Earth Closets provided	... ..	16.
Water Closets provided	... ..	2.
Flushing Cisterns repaired	... ..	22.
Companies' water laid on	... ..	25.
Pumps repaired	... ..	7.
Yards paved	... ..	16.
Windows made to open	... ..	7.
Animal nuisances abated	... ..	8.
Manure removed	... ..	4.
Dust Bins provided	... ..	3.
Ditches cleansed	... ..	2.
Overcrowding abated	... ..	1.
Cesspool abolished	... ..	1.

There are no houses let in lodgings, and no offensive trades in the District.

Schools.

Name.	Kind of Closets.	Water Supply.
Fawbert & Barnard, Harlow ...	Trough Water Closets ...	Company's.
Churchgate Street „ ...	„ „ „ ...	„
Harlow Common „ ...	Earth Closets ...	„
Sheering	„ „ ...	„
Matching	„ „ ...	Well.
Netteswell	Pedestal Water Closets. ...	Company's.
Great Parndon	Earth Closets. ...	Well.
Roydon	Pedestal Water Closets. ...	Company's.
Nazeing Church School ...	Earth Closets ...	„
„ Council „ ...	„ „ ...	„
Epping Green	„ „ ...	Public Pump.
North Weald, Girls' ...	Trough Water Closets ...	Company's.
„ „ Boys'	Earth Closets ...	„
Theydon Garnon	Pedestal Water Closets ...	„
Theydon Bois	„ „ „ ...	„
Chigwell, Boys'	Trough Water Closets ...	„
„ Girls'	„ „ „ ...	„
Chigwell Row School ...	„ „ „ ...	„

The premises generally were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Theydon Garnon and Chigwell Schools were closed respectively on April 20th and May 17th for short periods on account of Measles.

Theydon Bois School was closed on May 17th for 7 days on account of Diphtheria.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The milk supply is adequate and generally speaking good. The number of milch cows is approximately 1700. There are 58 Registered Cowkeepers, of whom 27 are milk sellers. In addition there are 2 persons who are purveyors only.

The total number of cowsheds is 61. During the year 212 inspections were made. The cowsheds were generally found to be in fair condition.

Milk (Mothers' and Children Order), 1918.—During 1919 the Council considered this Order and authorised the Medical Officer of Health to communicate with all Nurses practising in the District. They were asked to notify him of any cases that came under their notice where, owing to poverty, expectant or nursing mothers, or young children, were not obtaining a sufficiency. The Medical Officer was further authorised to deal with the matter.

Only one such notification was received during the year.

Meat.—Frequent inspections were made at the time of slaughtering. There were 12 surrenders of unsound meat, including 5 whole carcasses for Tuberculosis and 12 parts of carcasses for the same reason. The approximate weight of the total surrenders was $2\frac{1}{4}$ tons. The condition of the Slaughter-houses was satisfactory. There is no Public Abattoir in the District.

The number of Slaughter-houses is as follows :—

	In 1914.	In January, 1920.	In December, 1920.
Registered	7	7	7

Other Foods.—There are 15 Bakehouses in the District, the condition of which is fair. The Bakehouse referred to in last year's Report has been extensively altered and is now satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

94 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

They were as follows:—

	All Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Removed to Isolation Hospital
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Diphtheria	23	—	3	9	10	1	—	20
Chicken Pox	23	—	6	13	3	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	31	—	7	20	4	—	—	26
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Influenza Broncho-Pneumonia,	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	6	—	—	—	2	3	1	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Enteritis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	94	1	16	42	21	9	5	46

The facilities for Bacteriological examinations have been extensively used as an aid to diagnosis, especially with regard to Diphtheria and Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No return cases of Scarlet Fever were noted.

No special prevalence of non-notifiable infectious diseases was observed.

The Death Rate from Influenza was '19 per thousand.

As far as can be ascertained all cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the District were promptly notified by the Medical Practitioners. The death rate from this disease was '7 per thousand.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the course of the year the duties in connection with this matter were transferred to the Essex County Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The two latter also carry out inspections under the Housing Acts. The Chief Inspector acts as Surveyor under the Building Bye-Laws for No. 2 portion of the District.

There is an Isolation Hospital conveniently situated in the District. It contains adequate accommodation for cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

Arrangements have been made to notify the Metropolitan Asylums Board in the event of a case of Small Pox occurring. On receipt of the notification this Board will undertake removal and isolation.

A Specialist in this disease (Small Pox), is now provided by the County Council. Medical Practitioners in whose practice a doubtful case occurs may avail themselves of the services of this Specialist for the purpose of an exact diagnosis.

Bacteriological specimens for diagnostic purposes may be sent to the County Bacteriologist who reports to the Doctor in attendance on the case, and to the Medical Officer of Health. The examination of these specimens is made free of cost to the Patient.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses in 1919	...	...	3,535 (approximate).
„ „ „ „ 1920	...	...	3,602.
„ „ „ erected in 1920 (in-			
cluding 40 erected under the			
Housing Scheme)	...	...	67.
Population	...	...	15,647.

The 67 new Houses have somewhat relieved the shortage, but not to the extent it was hoped, as it has been found that the poorer members of the community who are living in defective Houses are unable to afford the rent (including rates), of the new ones. From this point of view there is still a shortage in the District.

The following Table shows the progress made towards completing the Housing Scheme :—

	Number of Houses proposed to be erected under the Housing Scheme.	Number completed in 1920.	Now in course of erection.
Harlow	46	15	31
Matching	12	—	12
Sheering	20	—	—
Netteswell	20	1	19
Roydon	20	—	20
Nazeing	20	—	20
Epping Upland	4	—	—
North Weald	20	8	12
Theydon Garnon	4	4	—
Theydon Bois	20	12	8
Chigwell	24	—	—
Great Parndon	6	—	6

Overcrowding exists owing to the shortage of houses. For the reason above stated it has not yet been possible to deal satisfactorily with the overcrowding.

The standard of housing in the more rural parts of the District is low.

The general character of the defects are :—

Dampness of walls and floors.

Inadequate drainage.

No pantry.

General dilapidations.

The difficulties in remedying unfitness are :—

Excessive cost.

Inability to raise rent to cover cost.

FOR GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARD UNFIT HOUSES SEE APPENDIX.

Mr. Beard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has supplied me with all the figures dealing with the Sanitary circumstances of the District, Housing, etc. As can be seen from these his work has, as usual, been carried out most efficiently. I am indebted to him for very valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

W. F. ERSKINE, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX. HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS,

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	15,647
(2)	General Death Rate	...	...	9'33 per thousand
(3)	Death Rate from Tuberculosis	...	0'7	„ „
(4)	Infantile Mortality	...	...	15'29 „ „ births
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	3,602. approximate.
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	3,100 „
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	67

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	} 376
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	None
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	125

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

(1)	Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	265
(2)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	154

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(A) *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	5
-----	---	-----	---

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close None

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied None

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By Owners	None
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	None

(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders None
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made None
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit None
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

- | | |
|---|--------|
| (1). Name of area | } None |
| (2). Acreage | |
| (3). Number of working-class houses in area | |
| (4). Number of working-class persons to be displaced | |
| (5). Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws, erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act 1919 None | |

Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each Officer :—The Chief Sanitary Inspector and Assistant carry out inspections and re-inspections.

ADMINISTRATION of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	93	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises) ...	...	...	...
Total	99	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts .				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances	5	5	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation :			...	...
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
Not Separate for Sexes ... ..	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	...	...	...	...
Other Offences (excluding Offences relating to Outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) ...	...	...	...	...
Total	5	5	...	...

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	15
Other Workshops	71
Total Number of Workshops on Register ...	86